



*Cook County Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Association*

Schroeder, Tofte, Lutsen, Grand Marais, Maple Hill, Gunflint Trail, Colvill, Hovland and Grand Portage Fire Departments

9/19/07

Subject: The FCC would like to eliminate paging on Public Safety VHF Frequencies

I am responding to information that the FCC would like to eliminate paging on Public Safety VHF Frequencies (150-160 MHz).

STOP and THINK!

The elimination of paging on our present Public Safety VHF Frequencies would be a huge destruction of our present capability to page for our Cook County's nine fire departments, three ambulance services, first responder units, hazmat team and the sheriff's response unit. All these agencies are VOLUNTEERS along with their budgets are already being cut every year. The cost to upgrade all these pagers and radios to meet this requirement would be astronomical and unobtainable. We would not be able to meet this FCC requirement and would force us to be illegal in regulations which are not acceptable. All the Counties paging is done from one place, the Cook County Sheriffs Department. So the upgrade for the County would be huge as well!

This county does not have a problem with paging on our Public Safety VHF Frequencies. We have multiple frequencies which keep the waves clear when necessary. I believe that not all the options have been thought out for the areas of complaints.

Changes like this would need to be backed with large grants for the upgrades. You have to consider where the money will come from. Most rural agencies do not have large city taxes to back them up. State aid is being cut more every year for the county and budget cuts are of the norm with less being done for the community. Let's not stop giving care for our community by cutting our capability to serve them.

Thank you for your time.



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Dan Baumann

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